STAND UP FOR NEWARK NOW!

New coalition challenges Baraka, UCC leadership





Joseph Scrimmager — Mrs. Ann Crumidy — William James — Miguel E. Rodriguez

Photo by Margaret M. Grieve

Candidates for United Community Corporation board of trustees in June 17 election

By FRED HILLMANN

A group of black political and civic leaders in Newark yesterday announced they have formed a coalition in an effort to unseat United Community Corporation President David Barrett, the city's top anti-poverty officer, who is closely allied with black activist Imamu Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones).

The group, which admitted it had to bury deep past differences to forge the coalition, accused Barrett, since his election as UCC president, of "diverting an unprecedented amount of UCC money from community use to programs sponsored by a LeRoi Jones group."

The coalition also charged both Barrett and Baraka are trying to "usurp" the powers of Newark Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson.

In an effort to dump the UCC's "power-hungry" leadership and block Barrett's bid for a second term as chief of the agency, the coalition will enter a slate of four candidates in the June 17 election of UCC trustees.

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The leaders of the dump-Barrett move are Assemblyman George C. Richardson (D-Essex); Clarence Coggins, director of the Community Action Program of the Model Cities program; Larrie Stalks, secretary to the Newark Planning Board, and Eulis C. Ward, Central Ward Democratic chairman. Ward will serve as coordinator for the slate.

The candidates on the coalition slate will be William James, an assistant to Coggins; Joseph Scrimmager, president of Foresight Manufacturing Co. and Richardson's legislative aide; Ann Crumidy, an associate of Mrs. Stalks; and Miguel Rodriguez, president of Commonwealth Better Housing Corp. and a trustee of FOCUS, the city's Puerto Rican anti-poverty unit.

James, spokesman for the slate which will run under the slogan "Newark elected only one mayor," said the group has been meeting for several months to "return guidance of the Newark anti-poverty agency to the community as a whole."

Calling themselves "Concerned UCC Members," the group's members said they were prompted to enter a dump-Barrett slate by "rumors of dissatisfaction" among UCC members, and the "partisan politics practiced by the present UCC leadership."

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Specifically, the coalition charged Barrett, elected last year with the "strong support" of the Committee for a Unified Newark, headed by Baraka, with "diverting UCC money from community use" to programs conducted by Baraka's committee.

The coalition put no dollar figure on the alleged diversion but said it has contributed to "diverting the agency's purpose from its job of aiding the poor to building a partisan political power base within the UCC for the benefit of certain self-styled community leaders."

The coalition's slogan, James said, refers to "the fact that there have been charges from a number of quarters that LeRoi Jones is attempting to usurp the powers of Mayor Gibson."

"Although these charges have been made privately for some time," he said, "they were heard in public more frequently during the recent schools strike, when Mayor Gibson's efforts to settle the strike were undercut a number of times by the supporters of LeRoi Jones."

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The coalition said evidence of efforts to "undercut" Gibson came midway through the nearly three-month teachers strike at a press conference, which was called by Baraka and attended by Barrett.

Baraka was openly critical of Gibson's handling of the strike and accused the mayor of "trying to please everyone."

"He's trying to please the devils and the angels at the same time," Baraka said.

Gibson, in turn, denounced "self - appointed community leaders making a lot of noise."

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The leaders of the dump-Barrett coalition have not always been on the same side of the fence on political and civic issues. They managed to mend their past differences, they said, because of the conditions at the UCC.

The coalition was forged, James admitted, "only after much discussion and soul-searching by a number of black and Puerto Rican leaders in Newark who have not always agreed."

"Those groups who have now joined forces in the persons of our four UCC candidates have at other times stood in direct opposition to each other," he said.

In the 1970 mayoral campaign, for example, Coggins backed Gibson's bid from the beginning, while Richardson ran as an independent mayoral candidate and Mrs. Stalks was in the camp of former Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio.

"We find it a great source of hope for Newark's future," the coalition said, "that during the power struggle now taking place in our city, they were able to bury past differences in a joint effort to support the concept of viable, elective black and Puerto Rican government."

Their bid for UCC board of trustee seats, the group said, is based on the belief that "the UCC was organized to help move Newark's people toward prosperity and peace.

"Under the present leadership, the UCC works primarily for the power-hungry," it said. "When we are elected, it will again work for the poor and hungry."

SUNDAY STAR-LEDGER,

June 6, 1971

Return the U.C.C. to Newark's poor

On Thursday, June 17

VOTE THE 'COALITION 4'

The U.C.C. is OUR agency. It was designed to help us end poverty in our own lives, and in all of Newark.

ITS MONEY SHOULD NOT BE USED TO BUILD THE POWER AND GLORY OF ONE MAN.....OR ONE CAUSE!

LeRoi Jones was not elected anything. Yet he has already tried to overpower the U.C.C....as he's trying to take power in Newark.

Newark's first black Mayor was elected by a coalition of people last year. Now a coalition of people is trying to save the U.C.C. from a small, noisy, power-hungry group that insists everything must be done its way... or it won't be done at all!

IF YOU WANT NEWARK'S PEOPLE TO WORK TOGETHER....
IF YOU WANT TO MOVE NEWARK FORWARD....
IF YOU BELIEVE IN EFFECTIVE BLACK AND PUERTO RICAN GOVERNMENT....
IF YOU DESPISE STRONG-ARM METHODS....
IF YOU BELIEVE IN FREEDOM OF CHOICE....
IF YOU BELIEVE THE U.C.C. SHOULD WORK FOR THE POOR, INSTEAD OF THE POWER HUNGRY....

Stand With Us Now ... Vote the 'COALITION 4'... We Will!

EULIS C. WARD - Central Ward Democratic Chairman
GEORGE C. RICHARDSON - Newark Assemblyman
LARRIE STALKS - Newark Planning Board
ALBERT BLACK - Green Power, WNJR
CLARENCE COGGINS - Director, Community Action, Model Cities
THOMAS F. EDWARDS - Local 889 Asphalt Workers Union
LEON EWING - Former South Ward Councilman
JOHNIE JOHNSON - South Ward Democratic Vice-Chairlady
ALVIN OLIVER - Former Director, UCC
REV. HORACE P. SHARPER - Abbysinian Baptist Church
DR. EDWARD W. VERNER
COURTNEY WEEKES - Essex County Complaint Bureau
WILLIE WRIGHT - United Afro-American Association
JOSE ROSARIO - Chmn., Puerto Rican Council of Community Affairs
VIRGINIA JONES - Central Ward Democratic Chairlady
REV. JOHN W. P. COLLIER, JR. - Secretary, Home & Foreign Missions, AME Church
HENRY ROBINSON - Central Ward Democratic Committee
JAMES HOOPER - former Chairman CORE
JULIO QUINTONES - Asst. Director, TEAM Center II
WILLIAM ZARAGOZA - Manager, Newark Housing Authority
GLORIA BUTLER - Central Ward Democratic Committee
JUAN A. RIVERA - Counselor, FOCUS
JULIA MORGAN - Central Ward Democratic Committee
ADOLFO NOGUERA - Pres., Rifle, Pistol Club of N. J.
ERNESTO VERDESIA - Newark Businessman
ALFONOS RENZO - Police-Community Rel. Dept.
NOAH MARSHALL - Central Ward Democratic Vice Chairman
LORRAINE HAYES - Central Ward Democratic Committee
DR. L. SYLVESTER ODOM - Former Director, UCC
ROSA PADILO - TEAM
IRIS COLLAZO - Counsellor, State Employment Service

REV. LEVIN B. WEST - Past President, UCC
CARMEN CHINEO - Puerto Rican Ladies Society
NORMAN GASKINS - Vice President, UCC
DUKE E. MOORE, SR. - President, New Hope Community Corp.
FATHER MARIO MUSITELY - Church of Perpetual Help
JESSE ALLEN - Pres. Friends of Clinton Hill
MELVIN HIGGINS - Comm. Relations Dir. Friends of Clinton Hill
GEORGE F ROSEBERRY - Asst. Coord. Bessie Smith Community Center
BILL WALLACE - Pres. 5th Precinct, Community Council
WILLIAM VINING - Vice Pres., Newark Youth Action Council
SAM CLARK - Pres. Newark Youth Action Council
WILEY CRAWFORD - Chairman, Housing Task Force, Model Cities
ALVIN CURRY - Chairman, Neighborhood Improvement Task Force
SAMUEL TUCKER - South Ward Dem. Committee
REV. J. D. RENFRO - Pres. Baptist Ministers Conf. of Newark & Vicin.
SAMUEL LAWTON - South Ward Dem. Committee
LAL ELLIS - South Ward Dem. Committee
MARY FINNEY - Community Worker
LEO BRANHAM - South Ward Dem. Committee
WILLIE JONES - South Ward Dem. Committee
EVELYN WILLIAMS - South Ward Dem. Committee
JAMES TEAGUE - Director New Careers
RONALD OWENS - Newark Assemblyman
ROGER TUCKER - Ex. Sec'y Negro Affairs Council
REV. JAN VAN ARSDALE - Trinity Reform Church
REV. WILLIAM L. PIERCE - Clearwater Baptist Church
JOSEPH PRICE - Asst. Treasurer, U.C.C.
REV. THEODORE M. BOOTH - St. John's Methodist Church
SAMUEL TUCKER - V.P. Negro Affairs Council
AL BROWN - Legal Research Analyst NHA
ETHEL M. MOORE - Life Membership Chrmn, NAACP

U.C.C. BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION, THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 8 P.M. .... VOTE: SCRIMMAGER - CRUMIDY - JAMES - RODRIGUEZ